

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 3, 2006.

Per the above amendment, claims 3, 5, and 8 have been amended and claims 11-12 added.

Claims 3-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vollone et al (US 6847778) in view of Geer et al (US 6788882).

The features of the apparatus of amended claim 3 are as follows. (1) When each of the program head retrieval commands is performed, the first head retrieval reproduction means performs head retrieval reproduction of the program signal recorded at one of specified time points which are previous to the present time, and which are after a beginning of the recording of the program signal on the recording medium and in a duration of the recorded program signal. (2) The specified time points are sequentially selected by the first head retrieval reproduction means in response to the program head retrieval commands in an order such that first selected one of the specified time points is closer to the present time than others of the specified time points are.

The above features (1) and (2) of the apparatus of amended claim 3 are supported by the specification, on page 51, line 26 to page 58, line 2. According to the features (1) and (2), it is possible to make program reproduction sequentially jump between the specified time points in the duration of a single recorded program.

Geer (US 6,788,882), column 8, line 1 to column 9, line 43, discloses that the user can browse through the programs by hitting up or down buttons 1420 and 1440 to change the channel and forward or backward buttons 1430 and 1450 to move in time units (column 8, lines 21-24). Geer further discloses that surfing back in time enables the user to start watching the program from the beginning of the program (column 9, lines 33-36).

The time units in Geer mean broadcast units, e.g., ½ hour, which are provided by television guides (column 8, lines 10-18). Figures 9 and 10 in Geer show that the broadcast units have equal (30-minute) durations for the respective programs. Therefore, the system of Geer makes reproduction jumps between the beginnings of programs rather than between specified time points in the duration of a single program. Geer therefore does not teach the underlined portion of the feature (1) of the apparatus of amended claim 3.

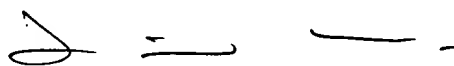
Vallone et al (US 6,847,778) does not teach the features (1) and (2) of the apparatus of amended claim 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 3 is patentable over Vallone and Geer.

The features of the apparatuses of amended claims 5 and 8 are similar to those of the apparatus of amended claim 3. Accordingly, it is further respectfully submitted that amended claims 5 and 8 are also patentable over Vallone and Geer.

In view the foregoing, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the case to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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